

## Daniel Todd Patterson to Andrew Jackson, June 19, 1817, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### COMMODORE DANIEL T. PATTERSON TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, June 19, 1817.

*My dear Sir.* I have perused with lively feelings, the correspondence between you and the Editors of the Lexington Reporter, as published in that Paper.

The imposition attempted to be practised on the Public by the Genl Order which appeared in that Paper, and attributed to you, you have most ably exposed, to minds open to conviction, and which I felt well assured, from my knowledge of you, never came from your Pen, or was sanctioned by you; and while I deeply deplore the recent agitation of a circumstance which I hoped had been buried in oblivion forever, I beg leave to express to you, my gratification at the handsome and honorable manner you have vindicated my character and conduct, from the odium attempted to be cast upon it by the General Order alluded to. It is to me a source of extreme regret, to find so determined, and illiberally hostile spirit cherished against both you and myself, in the State of Kentucky, as is evinced in those publications, and that you have been obliged from the publication of the Genl Order above mentioned, to appear before the public in a Newspaper controversy, which I am well aware must be extremely repugnant to your feelings. The erroneous statement, in the History of the late War in the West, as quoted in the Reporter, has led them to an Act of injustice to me, in asserting that my Guns were not turned in time: they were turned in time to protect the extreme right of Genl Morgans line; but I was effectually prevented using them, by the presence of our own Men, from the right, before the Muzzles of my Guns, for to have injured the Enemy, I must have fired thro' them: the Order was given to

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fire a 24 pr, loaded with Grape and Cannister, but which was countermanded, because more of our own Men would have been destroyed than of the Enemy; these are facts which can be supported if 'twere necessary, by many Witnesses; the truth I have asserted, from it I will never depart, be the consequences what they may.

It became my duty to account to my Dept the events of the ever memorable 8th Jany 1815, and in doing so, the causes which compelled me to abandon my Batteries; and had I seen the flight of the Detachment of Louisiana Militia, sent in advance, I should have reported it also, as a primary cause of the loss of my Battery; but in my report I confined myself to that alone, which passed under my own observation. Not the smallest allowance is made for the overthrow of my sanguine hopes of Signal Victory, and severe Mortification at finding myself obliged, thro the misconduct of others over whom I had no Controul, to abandon my Batteries, which I had laboured day and night, in Sunshine, rain and Cold, and under every difficulty, to erect, and which you have done me the honor to say to the world, so materially aided your lines on the left Bank, in every Attack made on them, and tended essentially to the final expulsion of the Enemy from our Soil. . . .